

Father Solanus Casey Fraternity | Duluth/Superior area

Newsletter

July 2022

"I have done what is mine to do; may Christ teach you yours!" —Francis of Assisi

Gospel Reading: 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Lk 10:38-42

Jesus entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary who sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me." The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."

Faith Matters: Reflections from your Spiritual Assistant

Supra Montem, Rule of 1289

By the time of the first Franciscan pope, Pope Nicholas IV, the Brothers and Sister of Penance (by now called Tertiaries) had become somewhat of a headache for the friars and the Church. There were a number of issues: some members had taken the Order's independence under Francis' direction a bit too far and were moving away from the spiritual leadership of the friars. At the same time, the number of friars available to provide guidance couldn't keep up with the rapid growth of the Tertiaries. Another issue was the refusal of brothers to fight in the wars of local rulers, who complained bitterly to Church leaders. Some even refused to honor the authority of these rulers. The rise of the Order was threatening to upend society. For their part, the friars assigned to assisting the Tertiaries were losing interest in being involved with them, as the friars came under increasing pressure to rein the wayward Tertiaries in.

Pope Nicholas left that the time had come to strengthen the bonds between the Tertiaries and both the Church and the friars. With *Supra Montem* in 1289 he established the first formally approved Rule for the Tertiaries. It adapted the earlier Rule with an eye to the needs of the Church and society. For example, to the rule that said brothers could not take up arms, was added "*except for the defense of the Roman Church, the Christian Faith, and/or also their country or with the permission of their ministers.*" To the restriction on making solemn oaths was added exceptions for "*when it shall seem expedient in a contract of buying, selling, or giving.*" The relationship with the Church was also clericalized. The requirement to gather monthly to "hear the word" became "*Let all healthy brothers and sisters . . . hear Mass daily if they conveniently are able to do so, and every month let them assemble at a Church or place . . . in order to hear Mass.*" The Order was to be made accountable to the Church and society in a way they never were before.

But undoubtedly more significant for the Tertiaries, Pope Nicholas put them under the direct control of the clergy. All pastoral visitors (what we now call Spiritual Assistants) had to be "a priest who belongs to some approved religious order," preferably of the Order of Friars Minor. A later pope made that even more explicit, assigning control over Tertiary fraternities to one of the First Orders (This is why, even today, fraternities are "bonded" to

This month's Fraternity Gathering

July 17, 2022, 12:30 p.m. – Picnic at Keith and Ellen's place

(directions to be included in the mailing)

List of what people offered to bring:

Keith and Ellen: Hamburgers, brats, and beverages

Bob and Jane: Buns, Chips, and pickles

Darlene: Potato Salad and olives

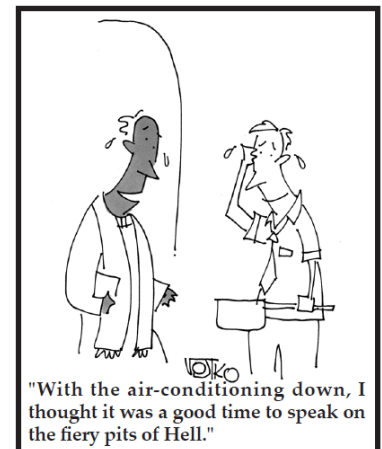
Kathy: Beans

Franz: Dessert

Barb: Fruit

Next month's meeting: August 21, 2022.

Ongoing Formation: Bob, Darlene, Jane, Kathy—Lessons from the "Q"



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different First Orders or TORs for spiritual assistance, even though the Pauline Rule restored our place as an independent Franciscan Order and brought the various branches of the Third Order together into one).

What is the legacy of *Supra Montem* for Secular Franciscans? First of all, it clarified the responsibility and the relationships of the Tertiaries to the Church and the social order. Even though not all Tertiaries liked the loss of autonomy, the Order was able to grow unimpeded and the changes were accepted in obedience.

Theologically, *Supra* continued the movement begun in *Memoriale* away from the interior conversion of heart exemplified by Francis' preaching, which lived itself out in acts of penance and service, toward external signs and practices which conformed to Church doctrine and discipline. Ideally, the outward practices flowed out of this interior conversion. Eventually this tension led the Third Order to split between a more dynamic clerical branch (followed later by communities of vowed religious), called the Third Order Regular, and an increasingly passive and devotionally-minded lay branch. This Rule remained the way of life for Secular Franciscans for 700 years until Pope Leo XIII.

— Bob

ODDS 'N' ENDS

In the spirit of "Gospel to life. . ." I lift up some things from the news for our ongoing prayer and reflection:

- While we as Catholics understandably rejoice with the Supreme Court ruling overturning *Roe v Wade*, let us also remember that this increases our responsibility to support women, especially the poor, both emotional and materially. The root causes that lead women to see abortion as their only must be addressed by Church and society with compassion and dialogue.
- Persecution against Christians continues in many areas around the world, most notably these days in Nigeria, India, and the Middle East. Remember these brothers and sisters in prayer and contribute as you are able to organizations such as Catholic Relief Services or the Franciscan Holy Land Foundation.
- The invasion of Ukraine by Russia shows no signs of ending any time soon. Pray for an end to the war. Both sides in that conflict profess to be Christian, which only deepens the pain of our failure to "beat their swords into plowshares."
- Because of the war and general economic hardships, the use of carbon-producing fossil oils is greatly expanding around the world. Experts say this makes it even harder to reach the goals needed to prevent extreme global warming. Let us commit ourselves in whatever ways we are able to support efforts that heed Pope Francis' call to "heal our common home."

"Pray as though it all depends on God. Act as though it all depends on us."

—Bob

Franciscan Saints/Blesseds of the Month

- 8 ST GREGORY GRASSI
- 9 ST NICHOLAS PICK AND COMPANIONS
- 10 ST VERONICA GIULIANI
- 12 STS JOHN JONES AND JOHN WALL
- 13 BL ANGELINE OF MARSCIANO
- 14 ST FRANCIS SOLANO

Francis Solanus was born in 1549 in southern Spain. He was educated by the Jesuits but felt drawn to the spirituality of Franciscan friars. Francis joined the OFM and was ordained in 1576.

First serving as a street preacher, Francis was sent to the New World, in response to the king's request for Franciscan missionaries. There he lived and worked among the native peoples. Francis died in Lima, Peru in 1610. He was canonized in 1726.

- 15 ST BONAVENTURE
- 21 ST LAWRENCE OF BRINDISI
- 23 ST CUNEGUNDA
- 23 ST BRIDGET of SWEDEN
- 24 BL LOUISE OF SAVOY
- 27 BL MARY MAGDALENE OF MARTINEGRO



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